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SENATE TAX

Exhibit No. 2
Date 2-21-2015
Bill No. SB 116

January 21st, 2015

To: Senate Taxation Committee

From: Boyce Fowler, AARP Montana Volunteer Advocate

Re: Support for SB 116, Increasing cap on elderly homeowner/renter tax credit

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, for the record my name is Boyce Fowler, a Volunteer Advocate with AARP Montana. AARP advocates on behalf of people age 50 and over and has around 150,000 members in this state.

Today we are here to support SB 116, a bill increasing the maximum tax credit for elderly, lower income homeowners and renters to \$1,500. This popular tax credit provides financial relief to many lower income seniors who live on a fixed income. Yesterday in the House Taxation Committee we opposed HB 159, a property tax freeze for people over age 65 due to the fact that it provides a tax break for people of all incomes, including those who could afford to pay their fair share for our schools, public safety and government services. If this legislature is interested in helping seniors who struggle to pay taxes, making adjustments in this tax credit is a more appropriate way to go. In addition, the cap on the maximum amount for this tax credit has not been adjusted in a number of years, so given inflation it is appropriate to look at increasing it.

Again, we urge the committee to support SB 116 as a good way to provide more tax relief to seniors. Thanks for your consideration.

Real Possibilities

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STATE TAX

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